

# Rutul language

**Rutul** is a language spoken by the Rutuls, an ethnic group living in Dagestan (Russia) and some parts of Azerbaijan. It is spoken by 30,000 people in Dagestan (2010 census)<sup>[3]</sup> and 17,000 (no date) in Azerbaijan.<sup>[4]</sup> The word *Rutul* derives from the name of a Dagestani village where speakers of this language make up the majority.<sup>[5]</sup>

Rutul is endangered in Russia<sup>[6]</sup> and classified as "definitely endangered" by UNESCO's Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.<sup>[7]</sup>

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## Classification

Rutul belongs to the Lezgic group of the Northeast Caucasian language family. The Rutuls call their language **myx'abišdy č'el**.

## History

Rutul was not a written language until the writing system for it (based on Cyrillic) was developed in 1990. A Latin alphabet was developed in 2013 based on the Shin-Shorsu dialect.<sup>[8]</sup> Speakers are often bilingual or multilingual, having a good command of the Azeri, Lezgian and/or Russian languages. There are 8 dialects and 2 subdialects of Rutul. The literary version of the language remains in the process of development. In the Rutul-populated regions of southern Russia, Rutul is taught in primary schools (grades 1 to 4).<sup>[5]</sup>

## Phonology

### Vowels

Rutul	
<span>мышӀабишды чӀел</span> <i>myx'abišdy č'el</i>	
Pronunciation	<span>[mɨxabiʃdɨ t͡ʃʰɛl]</span>
Native to	Russia, Azerbaijan
Region	Southern Dagestan, Russian–Azerbaijani border
Ethnicity	Rutul
Native speakers	36,400 <span> </span> (2010 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Northeast Caucasian <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Lezgic<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Samur<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western Samur<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Rutul</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Writing system	Cyrillic
Official status	
Official language in	<span><span></span></span> Dagestan
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	rut
Glottolog	rutu1240 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/rutu1240</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
<span></span> <div></div>	
<span></span> <div>Rutul in the Caucasus</div>	

Vowel phonemes<sup>[9]</sup>

	<b>Front</b>		<b>Central</b>	<b>Back</b>
<b>Close</b>	i i:	y	ɨ ɨ:	u u:
<b>Mid</b>	ɛ e:			
<b>Open</b>	æ			ɑ ɑ:

## Consonants

Consonant phonemes<sup>[9]</sup>

		<b>Labial</b>	<b>Dental</b>		<b>Alveolar</b>		<b>Palatal</b>	<b>Velar</b>		<b>Uvular</b>		<b>Pharyn-geal</b>	<b>Glottal</b>
			plain	lab.	plain	lab.		plain	lab.	plain	lab.		
<b>Nasal</b>		m	n										
<b>Plosive</b>	<b>voiced</b>	b	d					g	g <sup>w</sup>	ɢ	ɢ <sup>w</sup>		
	<b>voiceless</b>	p	t					k	k <sup>w</sup>	q	q <sup>w</sup>	ʔ	ʔ
	<b>ejective</b>	pʼ	tʼ					kʼ	k <sup>w</sup> ʼ	qʼ	q <sup>w</sup> ʼ		
<b>Affricate</b>	<b>voiced</b>		ɖʒ		ɖʒ	ɖʒ <sup>w</sup>							
	<b>voiceless</b>		ʈʂ	ʈʂ <sup>w</sup>	ʈʃ	ʈʃ <sup>w</sup>							
	<b>ejective</b>		ʈʂʼ	ʈʂ <sup>w</sup> ʼ	ʈʃʼ	ʈʃ <sup>w</sup> ʼ							
<b>Fricative</b>	<b>voiceless</b>	(f)	s	s <sup>w</sup>	ʃ	ʃ <sup>w</sup>		x	x <sup>w</sup>	χ	χ <sup>w</sup>	ħ	h
	<b>voiced</b>		z		(ʒ)			ɣ		ʁ	ʁ <sup>w</sup>	ʕ	
<b>Trill</b>					r							ʀ	
<b>Approximant</b>		w	l				j						

## Related languages

Among the languages of the Lezgian group, Tsakhur appears to be the closest relative of Rutul.<sup>[10]</sup> Other than these two, there are seven more languages in the Lezgian group, namely: Lezgian, Tabasaran, Aghul, Budukh, Kryts, Udi and Archi.

## See also

- Rutul people
- Northeast Caucasian languages
- Languages of Azerbaijan

Аа А|а| Бб Вв Гг Гьгь Гьгь Г|г| Дд Дждж Дзdz Ее  
 Ёё Жж Зз Ии Йй Кк Кькь Кькь К|к| Лл Мм Нн  
 Оо Пп П|п| Рр Сс Тт Т|т| Уу Уьуь У|у| Фф Хх Хьхь  
 Хьхь Цц Шш Чч Ч|ч| Шш Щш Ъь Ыь Ы|ы| Ьь Ээ  
 Юю Яя

Rutul alphabet

## References

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- Информационные материалы об окончательных итогах Всероссийской переписи населения 2010 года ([http://www.gks.ru/free\\_doc/new\\_site/population/demo/per-itog/tab6.xls](http://www.gks.ru/free_doc/new_site/population/demo/per-itog/tab6.xls))
- Rutul language (<https://www.ethnologue.com/17/language/rut/>) at *Ethnologue* (17th ed., 2013)
- (in Russian) ETHEO: Rutul Language (<http://etheo.h10.ru/rutu01.htm>)

6. Published in: Encyclopedia of the world's endangered languages. Edited by Christopher Moseley. London & New York: Routledge, 2007. 211–280. (<http://www.helsinki.fi/~tasalmin/chris.html>)
7. UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger (<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00206>)
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9. G. X. Ibragimov. 2004. Rutul'skij Jazyk. Machacala: Maxačkala: Dagestanskij Gosudarstvennyj Pedagogičeskij Universitet.
10. (in Russian) The Tsakhur language (<http://etheo.h10.ru/tsax01.htm>). The *ETHEO* Project. Last updated 11 October 2005. Retrieved 26 December 2006

## External links

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- Rutul dictionary online (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100819194552/http://lingweb.eva.mpg.de/ids/>) (select simple or advanced browsing)
  - Appendix:Cyrillic script
  - Folk Songs and Dances of the Rutuls of Azerbaijan ([https://web.archive.org/web/20071010101456/http://atlas.musigi-dunya.az/atlas/az/rutuls\\_video.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20071010101456/http://atlas.musigi-dunya.az/atlas/az/rutuls_video.html))
  - Rutul basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database (3 Rutul dialects: Mukhad, Ixrek, Luchek) (<http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\nccl\lez&limit=-1&encoding=utf-eng>)
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